

Centrica Resources Limited – Seven Seas Development
Comments On Environmental Statement

To: Sarah Pritchard

Signature: *Sarah Pritchard*

From: Carol Newbigging

Date: 10 March 2009

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ES Titles:	Seven Seas Development
Operator:	Centrica Resources Limited
Consultants:	RBA Ltd
ES Report Nos:	D/4036/2008
ES Date:	January 2009
Block Nos:	Block 48/7
Development Type:	Completion of one well and subsea tie back to platform

Synopsis:

Centrica proposes to complete the existing 48/7c-13y well, which will be tied back to the BP operated West Sole Alpha platform via the Newsham template.

Drilling from a jack-up rig is expected to start in April 2009 and will take approximately 40 days, with pipeline installation scheduled to commence in May 2009. First gas is expected in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Water Based Mud (WBM) will be used, with a total of 14 tonnes of cuttings being discharged. Well clean-up is planned for Quarter 2 2009. Flaring will occur during well clean-up, with a maximum of 2000 tonnes of gas flared over a 48 hour period.

The vessels used for installation operations will be dynamically positioned vessels, with one anchor to initiate the pipelay. The pipeline and umbilical will be laid on the seabed by using reeled installation techniques. The pipelines and umbilicals are to be trenched below natural seabed level. The pipelines and umbilicals will be trenched separately, 30 m apart with a minimum depth cover of 600mm required to natural seabed level. The pipeline trench will then be mechanically backfilled to bury the pipeline. Maximum expected rock dump will be 8 cubic metres per metre length of pipeline.

The produced water from Seven Seas will be carried in the flowstream to the onshore processing facility at Dimlington, from where it will be taken to an onshore treatment works with other Dimlington fluids for treatment and disposal.

There is no flare on the West Sole Alpha platform and no long term continuous venting, apart from purge gas disposal. Seven Seas production will not result in any routine venting of gas. Seven Seas gas use, for power generation and gas compression, will utilise West Sole Alpha platform complex ullage. Therefore, there are no implications in terms of the Offshore Combustion Installations (Prevention and Control of Pollution) (Amendment) Regulations

2007.

As a result of an environmental risk assessment there were the following potentially significant aspects identified and addressed within the ES:

- **Physical presence**
- **Seabed disturbance**
- **Noise and vibration**
- **Atmospheric Emissions**
- **Marine Discharges**
- **Solid Waste**
- **Minor loss of containment**

Mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum.

Recommendation: Based on the information in the Environmental Statement, it is recommended that project consent be given.

Consultees:

JNCC:

JNCC commented that the ES was lacking in terms of detailed survey information and requested further information.

JNCC confirmation that they have no objections, DTI Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 considered and no significant effects likely.

**CEFAS Environmental
CEFAS Chemicals**

**No objections.
No objections.**